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ULVERSTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.
FOR THE YEAR
1955



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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ULVERSTON

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1955.

Town Hall,

ULVERSTON.

December, 1956.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ulverston Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1955.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area, in acres	127,448
Population - Census, 1951	17,248
- Registrar-General's estimate of home population, mid 1955	16,380
Number of inhabited houses	5,589
Rateable Value	£86,733
Amount produced by a Penny Rate	£336.1.1

The district is entirely rural in character, the northern portion being typical Lakeland Country with lakes and fells merging into the more southern portion which extends to the coast and forms part of the northern shores of Morecambe Bay. Two Lakes Coniston and Esthwaite, as well as two-thirds of the shores of Lake Windermere are wholly contained in the district.

The principal industry is agriculture, with the hotel and catering industry playing a prominent part during the summer season.

The weather conditions during 1955 should not be allowed to pass without comment, being a year of exceptionally warm dry weather.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The principal vital statistics for 1955 and for the preceding five years are given on page 2.

Of the 204 births registered, 113 were males and 91 were females. There were 5 illegitimate births 3 males and 2 females.

Approximately 71% of the deaths were in persons of 65 years of age and over and the main causes of death were:- Heart disease 86, Malignant growths 22 and Vascular lesions of the nervous system 39.

YEAR.	Live Births.		Deaths. (all causes)		Stillbirths.		Maternal Mortality.		Infant Mortality Total. Neo-Natal.			
	Rate per 1,000 regis- tered. ation.	Number 1,000 regis- tered. ation.	Rate per 1,000 regis- tered. ation.	Number 1,000 regis- tered. ation.	Rate per 1,000 regis- total tered. births.	No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 regis- total tered. births.	No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 regis- live tered. births.	No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 regis- live tered. births.	No. of deaths regis- tered. live births.
1955	x _{12.5}	204	x _{12.9}	211	4	19	Nil	Nil	6	29	5	25
1954	12.0	197	14.0	228	6	30	Nil	Nil	8	41	6	30
1953	14.5	234	11.9	194	6	25	1	4.17	3	21	3	13
1952	15.1	247	12.0	196	4	16	Nil	Nil	1	16	1	16
1951	13.5	224	16.3	271	3	13	Nil	Nil	5	22	3	13
1950	13.9	232	13.6	228	7	29	Nil	Nil	4	17	2	9
Average 5 years 1950-54	13.8	-	13.6	-	-	23	-	-	-	24	-	16

x Live birth rate (comparability factor, 1.14) = 14.2 per 1,000

Death rate (comparability factor, 0.82) = 10.6 per 1,000

The table below shows comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales, 160 smaller towns and this district.

The rates quoted are for 1,000 population in all cases.

Year	England and Wales.		160 Smaller Towns 25,000 - 50,000.		Ulverston Rural District.	
	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
1955	15.0	11.7	14.9	11.6	14.2	10.6
1954	15.2	11.3	15.4	11.0	13.7	11.4
1953	15.5	11.4	15.7	11.3	15.6	9.6
1952	15.3	11.3	15.5	11.2	16.4	9.7
1951	15.5	12.5	16.7	12.5	14.7	13.2

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:-

J.L. WILD, M.A., M.B., B.Chir.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments Held:-

Medical Officer of Health -
Dalton-in-Furness Urban
District, Grange-over-Sands
Urban District, Ulverston
Urban District.

Divisional Medical Officer -
Health Division No. 1 -
Lancashire County Council.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:-

H.C. CLAYDON, Certificate - Royal
Sanitary Institute. Certificate
of Royal Sanitary Institute -
Meat and Other Foods.

Sanitary Inspector:-

H.E. BINGHAM, Certificate - Royal
Sanitary Institute. Certificate
of Royal Sanitary Institute -
Meat and Other Foods.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

The townships to the west and south of Ulverston derive their water supplies from the Barrow undertaking and those adjacent to Grange from the Grange undertaking. The water in both cases is treated before going into supply. The chlorinating plant at Broughton West was brought into operation during 1955 and at the end of the year similar plant was being installed at Egton and Backbarrow.

Nine samples from the public supplies were submitted to bacteriological examination, three of the raw water of which two were not satisfactory, and six of the treated water all of which were satisfactory. Seven samples were taken from private supplies and all proved to be satisfactory.

No shortage of water was experienced except during the exceptionally dry period in August when water had to be pumped from auxiliary supplies at Cartmel, Allithwaite, Coniston and Staveley.

Water Supplies to Houses.

TOWNSHIP.	<u>From Public Mains.</u>				<u>From Private Wells and Springs etc.</u>	
	Direct to houses.		By means of stand-pipes		No. of dwelling houses.	No. of population.
	No. of dwelling houses.	No. of population.	No. of dwelling houses.	No. of population.		
Aldingham	282	950	-	-	4	16
Allithwaite Lower	478	1309	-	-	42	164
Allithwaite Upper	220	734	-	-	10	36
Angerton	-	-	-	-	5	21
Blawith	-	-	-	-	37	115
Broughton East	28	106	-	-	25	97
Broughton West	276	847	-	-	39	137
Cartmel Fell	20	65	-	-	98	265
Claife	144	387	-	-	30	115
Colton	21	76	-	-	300	1010
Coniston	302	935	2	7	43	165
Dunnerdale	-	-	-	-	61	180
Egton with Newland	129	331	-	-	162	546
Haverthwaite	206	593	4	7	55	249
Holker Lower	434	1398	-	-	46	183
Kirkby	411	1214	-	-	31	135
Hawkshead	212	563	-	-	17	75
Lowick	34	115	-	-	44	157
Mansriggs	1	5	-	-	10	40
Osmotherley	45	112	-	-	46	156
Pennington	389	1226	-	-	8	33
Satterthwaite	-	-	-	-	Private main 106	312
Skelwith	-	-	-	-	92	256
Staveley	102	266	-	-	34	110
Subberthwaite	9	30	-	-	15	47
Torver	-	-	-	-	Private main 24 36	196
Urswick	379	1151	1	3	5	19

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Particulars of existing methods of disposal of sewage in the various townships of the Rural District are given in the table below. A new sewage disposal plant is being constructed at Finsthwaite Lane, Backbarrow. Work has commenced on the new sewage disposal scheme at Leece and the sewerage scheme at Kirkby.

Sewage Disposal.

<u>Township</u>	<u>Village.</u>	<u>Method of Disposal.</u>
Aldingham	Leece	Sewage tank with land irrigation. Sewage disposal scheme approved.
	Gleaston	Sewage tank.
	Scales	Two sewage tanks with overflow to land.
	Baycliffe Newbiggin	Sewage tank with outfall to sea. Sewage tank with overflow to stream.
Allithwaite Lower	Allithwaite	Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters, outfall to sea.
	Cartmel	Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters, outfall to River Eea.
Allithwaite Upper	Lindale	Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters, outfall to River Winster.
	Newton	Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters, outfall to stream.
Broughton East	Field Broughton	Sewage tank.
Broughton West	Broughton-in-Furness	Sewage tank with overflow to the tidal waters of the River Duddon.
	Foxfield	Tidal waters of the River Duddon.
Claife	Near Sawrey	Sewage tanks.
	Far Sawrey	Two sewage tanks with overflow to stream.
	Colthouse	Sewage tank with overflow to stream.
Colton	Bouth	Sewage tank with overflow to stream.
	Oxenpark	Sewage tank with overflow to land.
Coniston	Coniston	Five large sewage tanks with overflow to stream.
Egton	Greenodd	Tidal waters of Morecambe Bay.
	Pennybridge	Sewage tank.
	Sparkbridge	Tanks and filters with outfall to river.
Haverthwaite	Haverthwaite	Sewage tank with overflow to river.
	Backbarrow	Sewage tank with overflow to River Leven.
		Sewage disposal works at Finsthwaite Lane.
Hawkshead	Hawkshead	Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
	Outgate	Two sewage tanks with outfall to land and stream.
	Hannakin	Sewage tank with outfall to stream
Holker Lower	Cark	Sewage tank with outfall to sea.
	Ravenstown	Sewage tank with filters.
	Flookburgh	Pumping plant discharging sewage to enlarged works at Ravenstown with outfall to stream.

Kirkby Ireleth	Sandside	Tidal water of River Duddon
	Beckside	Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
	Chapples	Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
	Soutergate	Sewage tank with outfall to sea.
	Marshside	Sewage tank with outfall to tidal waters.
Lowick	Lowick Green	Sewage tank with outfall to River Crake.
Osmotherley	Beehive	Tank with outfall to stream.
	Three Bridges	Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
Pennington	Swarthmoor	Outfall works of Ulverston Urban District Council.
	Trinkeld	Outfall works of Ulverston Urban District Council.
	Loppergarth	Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters and outfall to stream.
	Cross-a-Moor	Sewage tank with outfall to land.
Satterthwaite	Satterthwaite	Private sewer to works with outfall to stream.
Staveley	Staveley	Private sewer, tank with outfall to stream.
Torver	Torver	Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
Urswick	Great Urswick	Sewage tanks with outfall to tarn.
	Little Urswick	Sewage tanks with outfall to tarn.
	Stainton	Sewage tanks with outfall to land.
	Bardsea	Sewage tanks with outfall to sea.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Details regarding the inspection of food, shops, stalls and vehicles, and places where food is prepared are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

No cases of food poisoning were reported during the year.

HOUSING.

During the year 30 houses were erected by the Council and 23 by private builders.

At 31st December, 36 houses were under construction by the Council, disposed as follows:- Backbarrow 14, Kirkby 6, Sparkbridge 8 and Lindale 8. The future housing programme will not be determined until December, 1956.

The very large number of houses inspected during the year was brought about by the survey being undertaken in connection with the slum clearance programme. It has provided some valuable information on the housing conditions of the district and is reported on more fully by the Sanitary Inspectors.

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	929
	(b)	Number of inspections, formal or informal made for the purpose	1375
(2)		Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit	
	(a)	Number found during the year	78
	(b)	Estimated number at end of year	150
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found during year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	132

2.	<u>Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.</u>		
(1)	Number of dwelling houses demolished during year		Nil
3.	<u>Houses not included in Clearance Areas:-</u>		
(1)	Houses demolished or closed during year:	<u>Houses.</u>	<u>Persons Displaced.</u>
(a)	<u>Housing Act, 1936</u>		
	Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11)	4	14
	Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force	Nil	Nil
	Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)	Nil	Nil
(b)	<u>Housing Act, 1949.</u>		
	Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 3(1) and 3(2)	Nil	Nil
(c)	<u>Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953</u>		
	Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 10(1) and 11(2)	Nil	Nil
(2)	Repairs during the year		<u>Number of Houses.</u>
(a)	Unfit houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts		64
(b)	Public Health Acts - action after service of formal notice - Houses in which defects were remedied:-		
	By owners		12
	By local authority in default of owners		Nil
(c)	Housing Act, 1936,- action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16) Houses made fit:-		
	By owners		Nil
	By local authority in default of owners		Nil
(d)	<u>Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.</u>		
	Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5)		Nil
4.	<u>Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954.</u>		
(1)	No. of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7		Nil
(2)	No. of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6)		32
5.	<u>Housing Act, 1949 - Improvement Grants etc.</u>		
		<u>No. of Schemes.</u>	<u>No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected.</u>
	Action during the year:		
(a)	Submitted by private individuals to local authority	38	38
(b)	Submitted by local authority to Ministry	Nil	Nil
(c)	Finally approved by Ministry	-	-
(d)	Work completed	13	13
(e)	Additional separate dwellings included in (d) above	3	3

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table shows the numbers of cases of the notifiable infectious diseases which occurred in the Rural District during the five years 1950-1954, compared with the numbers in 1955.

Disease.	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	<u>1955</u>		
						Number of cases	Removed to hospital	Deaths
Scarlet fever	46	10	21	25	15	6	2	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	237	171	70	185	171	199	0	0
Whooping cough	42	77	36	13	33	4	0	0
Meningococcal infection.	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Puerperal fever and pyrexia	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Pneumonia	7	21	19	20	6	4	2	1
Erysipelas	3	5	1	2	2	2	0	0
Dysentery	0	1	1	0	0	56	0	0
Poliomyelitis	0	1	0	0	1	3	3	0
Food poisoning	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
TOTALS.	336	288	149	245	230	275	8	1

An outbreak of dysentery started towards the end of May and continued throughout the greater part of June and centred primarily in one school. The incidence of measles was greatest during the 4th quarter of the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table shows the numbers of new cases and mortality during 1955.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
2-	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
35-	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
45-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55-	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
65-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
75 and upwards.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS.	1	5	1	0	2	0	0	0
	6		1		2		0	

The table below shows the numbers of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis in Ulverston Rural District residents during the past 12 years.

Year	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1944	12	13	5	4	4	5	1	0
1945	5	5	5	7	1	3	0	0
1946	9	3	2	2	2	1	1	1
1947	6	8	6	7	1	2	0	0
1948	9	10	5	3	1	0	0	2
1949	11	6	5	6	1	2	0	0
1950	9	4	5	3	3	0	1	0
1951	12	5	2	3	2	1	0	1
1952	8	4	2	3	1	0	1	0
1953	6	3	2	1	3	1	1	0
1954	8	5	0	1	2	1	1	0
1955	1	5	1	0	2	0	0	0

The decline in the number of new cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis over the past 12 years will be noticed. It is largely due to the comparative rarity nowadays of tuberculous glands of neck, which in turn can be attributed to the gradual eradication of tuberculous milk.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities.	33	18	Nil	Nil
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority.	59	23	Nil	Nil

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

It was not found necessary to take any action under these acts during the year.

In conclusion it is my pleasure to thank the Members of the Health Committee and the Officers of the Rural District Council, particularly the Sanitary Inspectors for their unfailing courtesy and help.

The report of the Sanitary Inspectors is appended.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. L. WILD.

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1955.

We have pleasure in submitting our Annual Report on the work carried out by the Department during 1955.

HOUSING.

During the year a start was made on the programme to secure the demolition or reconditioning of unfit houses throughout the area. As a result of the survey which had been proceeding for some three or four years, it was realised that a considerable proportion of the properties found to be unfit would be best dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, which provides for the treatment of individual houses. Under this Section, whilst it is the opinion of the Council that the dwelling concerned cannot be rendered fit at reasonable expense, the owner has an opportunity to submit a scheme which he is prepared to execute. If such an undertaking is accepted by the Council and subsequently carried out, further action is not needed. The facilities and financial aid afforded by the Improvement Grants scheme under the Housing Act, 1949 has had a considerable effect on the attitude of property owners in that they are more willing to submit undertakings to save the property than if no grant had been available. The scheme has much to commend it and will ease considerably the problem of rehousing tenants at greatly increased rentals.

The problem of aged persons living in dwellings liable for action under the Housing Acts is a difficult one. To require such people to leave the homes which they have occupied for many years would be unrealistic and in most cases they could not afford to pay the rent of a Council house even with subsidy. When instances of this nature have occurred, it has been the practise to suspend action while the present tenants are still in occupation.

At the end of the year 11 properties had been dealt with under Section 11, and the following procedure was adopted:-

Number of undertakings received	8
Number of undertakings accepted	8
Number of Closing Orders made (Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act)	-
Number of Demolition Orders made	-
Number in abeyance (extra time allowed for undertakings to be submitted)	1
Number of houses demolished as a result of informal procedure	4

One Clearance Area comprising of 9 houses at Cark was represented to the Council but no action was taken on this pending the submission of other Clearance Areas likely to be declared in the following year.

32 properties (including one lock up shop) in Clearance Areas which had been confirmed prior to 1939 in the parishes of Coniston, Kirkby and Haverthwaite remained occupied at the end of the year. This represents a reduction of 24 families in the figure of 55 referred to in the 1954 report. The 32 properties are all occupied under licence and according to the Act these must be vacated by July 31st 1957.

Overcrowding of families throughout the area diminished considerably during the year and the demand for Council Houses on these grounds lessened, but there are still a few large families from whom no applications for re-housing have been received.

MEAT INSPECTION.

During the year 460 visits were made to the five licenced slaughterhouses in the area, and the following table gives details of the work carried out.

Carcases inspected and condemned within the district.

	<u>Cattle excluding Cows.</u>	<u>Cows.</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Lambs and Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
Number killed	400	103	14	2660	745
Number inspected	400	103	14	2660	745

All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci

Whole carcasses condemned	2	-	5	8	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	68	34	-	238	30
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	17.5%	33.3%	35.7%	9.2%	4.0%

Tuberculosis only.

Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	7	12	-	1	6
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.75%	11.65%	-	.03%	.8%

Cysticercosis.

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	2	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	2	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

The facilities available at all the licenced slaughterhouses leave something to be desired, but until the Governments future policy with regard to such premises is declared, improvements involving major works cannot be insisted upon. For instance none of the slaughterhouses have separate hanging rooms and until a standard requiring such provision is made the whole operation of killing and maturing is carried out in one room. It will be recalled that at the present time the slaughterhouses are licensed temporarily, pending the declaration of slaughtering policy.

WATER SUPPLIES.

By the end of the year a chlorinating plant had been provided in connection with the water supplied to the Broughton area, and arrangements were in hand to deal similarly with the supplies serving the Egton, Backbarrow and Haverthwaite areas. The completion of these schemes will mean that approximately 90% of the population served by public mains are receiving chlorinated water. All the supplies are subjected to bacteriological examination at least 3 times a year.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The restrictions on capital expenditure precluded the provision of sewerage systems in the villages which lack this amenity. Including the villages concerned is Ayside, where nuisances have occurred from time to time as a result of the use of many unsatisfactory cesspools.

Requests for the use of the Council's sewage pump to empty private tanks continued to increase and there can be no doubt that this service is of some benefit to the community. There is a disadvantage to this scheme however, in that the contents of the septic tanks have in the main to be disposed of on land in close proximity to the site, and in many cases this can be very objectionable. More and more householders now prefer to avail themselves of the facilities afforded by the County Borough of Barrow-in-Furness, which authority will undertake to cleanse a septic tank and take the contents away for disposal. The Barrow authority will not execute this work on an order from a householder outside its own area, but requires an order from this Council. In consequence the practice is to issue an order and forward the account to the householder when the cost is known.

CARAVAN SITES.

The year saw an increased use of caravans by holidaymakers due no doubt to the excellent summer weather. The licenced sites were mostly full during the period May to August and a considerable number of caravans were scattered over the district, mainly in the parishes of Cartmel Fell, Coniston, Skelwith and Hawkshead. The latter remained for short periods only, and there is little that can be done to control them while the existing law remains unaltered. In any case, any objection could only be on the grounds of eyesore as it is rare to find evidence of a public health nuisance.

The removal of refuse from licensed sites still presents a problem, as at the peak of the fine weather a fortnightly collection was of little use. Some of the site owners worst affected made private arrangements for the disposal of rubbish, they would have been pleased to pay for extra collections if the service could have provided it.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The collection of refuse continued satisfactorily throughout the year, but cost increased once more - mainly due to wage increases. It was still necessary to work overtime, as the year ended without the delivery of a large collection vehicle for use in the more populated parishes in the Southern part of the area. Even the delivery of this vehicle would not obviate all overtime however, as the number of properties to be served increased by new building. Furthermore, it has proved necessary to work longer hours on the resumption of work after holiday periods.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.

In addition to the inspection of meat at private slaughterhouses the inspection and supervision of food and food premises generally has been maintained.

Premises where ice cream is manufactured and sold, or meat products prepared, bakehouses and establishments have been subjected to inspection as often as possible. Once again no outbreaks of illness were reported which were attributed to the consumption of unfit food.

RODENT CONTROL.

The work of this important branch of the Health Department has continued smoothly throughout the year. All sewerage systems and refuse depots have been dealt with, and the treatment of many private dwellings has been carried out. We have attended two meetings of the North Lancashire Advisory Committee, and useful information has been received from the various Ministry Technical Officers who addressed the meetings. It is pleasing to note that the public are co-operating by notifying the Department of infestation by rats and mice, so that prompt action can be taken to treat the premises concerned.

Works affected under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 are as follows:-

	Local Authority.	Type of Property			Total.
		Dwelling House.	Agric.	Business Premises.	
Action after Notification Survey or otherwise	- 59	68 1189	- 258	2 48	70 1554
Number of properties found to be infested and treatment carried out	31	424	-	2	475

It will be noticed that although 258 agricultural holdings have been inspected, no treatment has been carried out by the Council's Rodent Operator. In point of fact it was found that in cases where infestation was found, the County Agricultural Executive Committee were already serving the premises under contract.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Inspections of premises other than dwelling houses.

	<u>No. of visits.</u>
Bakehouses	14
Camping sites	34
Dairies	13
Factories	4
Food preparing and storage premises	67
Infectious disease	26
Piggeries	11
Public Houses	9
Rats and mice and other vermin	35 (excluding visits by Rodent Operator)
Schools	28

We are,

Yours faithfully,

H.C. CLAYDON.

H.E. BINGHAM.

Sanitary Inspectors.

